Improving the implements of MGREGS

†581. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGREGS) that was started with a view of providing employment in rural areas needs comprehensive improvement in its implementation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether suggestions for improvement from various sources have also been received; and

(d) if so, the main suggestions and the decisions of Government regarding their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was implemented in 200 districts from 2nd February, 2006. 130 additional districts were covered under the Act during 2007-08 and all the remaining rural areas in the country have been brought under the purview of NREGA with effect from 1.4.2008. Since inception, 13.52 crore households have been provided employment and 632,11 crore persondays generated by spending an amount of Rs.70499.72 crore. More than 50% works were undertaken in water conservation sector. The share of SC/ST was 61% and women 40% in total employment generation in 2006-07. Similarly, in 2007-08, the share of SC/ST was 56% and women 43%, in 2008-09, share of SC/ST was 54% and women 48% and in 2009-10 (October, 2009), share of SC/ST was 51% and women 51%.

NREGA is demand based. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to take up programmes relating to awareness generation among the rural population about their legal rights under the Act through IEC activities, which includes both-print as well as electronic media.

(c) and (d) The following measures have been taken to improve upon the implementation of NREGA:

(i) Permissible administrative expenditure limit has been enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for NREGA, strengthening of management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and ICT infrastructure.

(ii) Payment through institutional accounts of NREGA workers has been made mandatory to infuse transparency in wage disbursement.

(iii) Instructions have been issued on 7.9.09 directing all States to appoint ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal.

(iv) Social audit: Modifications have been made in the Act on 31.12.08 for laying down the procedures for social audit.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(v) Independent appraisal by professional institutions including IITs and IIMs and Agricultural Universities.

(vi) Independent Monitoring by NLM.

(vii) ICT based MIS to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job Cards, employment demanded and allocated, days worked, Muster Rolls, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.

(viii) Periodic reviews with State Governments.

(ix) National Helpline now being upgraded to ICT based network of national helpline. Toll free Helpline No. is 1800110707.

(x) To cover gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics have been initiated.

Survey of implementation of NREGA

582. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out to what percentage of the maximum requirement laid down under the NREGA per individual have been met in different States and Union Territories during the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(c) the per individual payment of wages there under?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No such survey has been conducted by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Average wage paid per personday during 2006-07 was Rs.65; during 2007-08 was Rs.75, during 2008-09 was Rs.84 and during the current year (upto October, 2009) is Rs.88.

NREGS in drought affected districts

583. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in nearly 200 of the country's 600 districts affected by drought, Government plans to fall back on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to provide relief to people in the affected areas;